

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3625
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CONFIDENTIAL BELGRADE 3869

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, UN
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC

REF: A. STATE 170841 B. BELGRADE 3774

1. DURING COURTESY CALL JULY 24 ON PRIME MINISTER BIJEDIC, WHICH CONCENTRATED LARGEMLY ON YUGOSLAV ECONOMY, AMBASSADOR RAISED YUGOSLAVIA'S POLICIES IN MULTILATERAL FORA, PARTICULARLY FORTHCOMING UN 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND 30TH SESSION UNGA. HE CONTRASTED HIGHLY FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OUR BILATERALS, WITH STRAINS AND TENSIONS THAT SOMETIME ARISE BETWEEN US IN MULTILATERAL ARENAS. BIJEDIC SAID VERY EXPLICITLY AND REPEATED AGAIN LATER IN CONVERSATION THAT WHILE THERE ARE SOME LDC'S WHICH SEEK SHARPEN WORLD TENSIONS, MAJORITY OF NON-ALIGNED FAVOR DIALOGUE WITH DC'S AND ARE AGAINST CONFRONTATION. YUGOSLAVIA IN LATTER GROUP AND ANXIOUS TO SEE THAT GENUINE RESULTS COME FROM FORTHCOMING UN SESSIONS AND THAT CONFRONTATION AVOIDED. YUGOSLAVIA INTENDS WORK TOWARDS THESE ENDS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DIALOGUE IMPLIES THAT BOTH SIDES WILL LISTEN TO EACH OTHER'S VIEWPOINTS.

2. AMBASSADOR CALLED BIJEDIC'S ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S MILWAUKEE SPEECH AND ADDED THAT WE WERE CONCERNED OVER RECENT ACTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH SUGGESTED UNCONSTITUTIONAL EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM UNGA. BIJEDIC RESPONDED THAT WHILE THE MOSLEM COUNTRIES HAD RECENTLY CALLED FOR SUCH ACTION, NOT ALL

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OF THE COUNTRIES PRESENT AT THAT MEETING AGREED. YUGOSLAVIA

CERTAINLY DID NOT. IT OPPOSED EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM UN SYSTEM. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, ISRAEL CANNOT SIMPLY HAVE ITS OWN WAY. IT MUST REALIZE THAT IT CANNOT EXPECT TO HOLD OTHER PEOPLES' TERRITORIES INDEFINITELY, WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES FOR ITS OWN SECURITY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT NON-ALIGNED WANT A ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

3. COMMENT: WE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY CONTRAST IN TONE BETWEEN BIJEDIC'S PRIVATE ASSURANCES AND MINIC STATEMENT (REFTEL B). THE ONE CONSTANT THEME IN ALL DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS CONCERNING THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION IS THE GOY DESIRE FOR CONCRETE RESULTS, NOT RHETORICAL CONFRONTATION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. OF COURSE THEIR DESIRE FOR CONCRETE RESULTS DOES NOT NECESSARILY AVOID CONFRONTATION IF THEIR MINIMUM GOALS ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO US.

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